

# Statewide STEM Initiative Statement of Purpose and Definition

## **STEM Strategic Initiative Purpose:**

The purpose of the Montana STEM Initiative is to develop a comprehensive and coherent approach to STEM education that creates a STEM literate citizenry and improves Montana's economic competitiveness.

## **Montana Draft Definition of STEM:**

STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Montana defines Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) as a way of thinking that values the particular perspective of thinking and learning embedded in each discipline, and also encourages the integration of strategies and core content from all four disciplines.

The Montana STEM Initiative encourages STEM thinking that integrates knowledge across all disciplines and includes early and continual development of problem solving, persistence, critical thinking, innovation, collaboration, communication and reasoning. Such integrated knowledge and skills help Montanans to be informed citizens, be stewards of the state's natural resources, improve our social and economic conditions, and compete in the local and global economy.

